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*East Elloe*  
*Rural District Council*



ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER  
and the  
SANITARY INSPECTOR  
for the  
Year 1947

## STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

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### **Medical Officer :**

I. M. CULLUM, M.D., B.S. (Lond.), D.P.H., D.C.H.

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### **Sanitary Inspector :**

W. B. HITCHINGS, B.Sc. (Hons.), M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

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### **Additional Sanitary Inspector :**

L. H. MOTLEY, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (appointed 1st October, 1947)

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### **Clerk :**

Miss J. E. LOND.

# East Elloe Rural District Council

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## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

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### Chairman :

Councillor A. WELLS.

### Members :

Councillor R. G. BARWELL.

„ F. BAXTER.  
„ F. BOWD, J.P.  
„ Rev. C. V. BROWNE-WILKINSON.  
„ G. H. CAMPLING. (Resigned June, 1947)  
„ Rev. F. TATTERSALL.  
„ (Elected August, 1947).  
„ W. D. CURTIS.  
„ J. CUTHBERT.  
„ J. DICKINSON.  
„ A. B. ENTWISTLE.  
„ H. W. FARROW, J.P.  
„ H. GROUND.  
„ S. GARNER.  
„ Mrs. A. H. S. HUNTER.  
„ C. HESKETH.  
„ A. G. LENTON, J.P.  
„ H. L. NEAVERSON.  
„ C. I. PATCHETT.  
„ H. PIGGINS.  
„ T. H. ROSE.  
„ T. W. SELBY.  
„ G. H. SNASDELL.  
„ A. WHITE.

*To the  
Chairman and Members of the  
East Elloe Rural District Council*

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Madam and Gentlemen,

I present herewith my report for the year 1947.

Generally speaking, the health of the district has remained satisfactory. Fortunately the epidemic of infantile paralysis during the exceptionally fine summer did not cause anxiety in this district.

It is pleasing to report that some progress has been made during the year in connection with the Council's housing schemes.

Detailed comments on other matters will be found in the body of the report.

The staff of the Health Department was increased during the year by the appointment of Mr. L. H. Motley as Additional Sanitary Inspector. Mr. Motley took up his duties on October 1st.

I wish to express my thanks to the other Officials and Members of the Council for their courtesy and assistance at all times.

I have the honour to be Madam, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

I. M. CULLUM,

Medical Officer of Health.

## STATISTICS FOR THE AREA.

Area in acres	.....	84,597
Registrar-General's estimate of the civilian resident population appropriate to the calculation of the death rate	.....	22,420
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1947	.....	6,436
Rateable value at 31st March, 1948	.....	£65,295
Product of a penny rate at 31st March, 1948	.....	£266 12s. 2d.

	M.	F.	Total	
<u>Live Births</u> { Legitimate	258	232	490	} Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated civilian resident population 23.15.
Illegitimate	13	16	29	
Total Live Births	271	248	519	

<u>Still Births</u> { Legitimate	7	4	11	} Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) births 24.44	Total births
Illegitimate	1	1	2		
Total Still Births	8	5	13		

<u>Deaths</u>	.....	.....	.....	142	104	246	} Death rate per 1,000 of estimated civilian resident population 10.97
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### Deaths from Puerperal and Other Maternal Causes :

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal and post-abortionals sepsis	—	—
Other maternal causes	1	1.88
	1	1.88



### Numbers of Deaths of Infants under one year of age :

		M.	F.	Total
<u>Deaths</u>	{ Legitimate	16	4	20
	{ Illegitimate	1	5	6
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		17	9	26
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

### Death Rates of Infants under one year of age :

All infants per 1,000 live births	.....	.....	.....	50.096
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	.....	.....	.....	40.82
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	.....	.....	.....	206.9

					M.	F.	Total
<u>Deaths from</u>	Cancer (all ages)	.....	.....	.....	20	15	35
	Measles (all ages)	.....	.....	.....	—	—	—
	Whooping Cough (all ages)	.....	.....	.....	—	—	—
	Diarrhoea (under two years)	.....	.....	.....	3	—	3

### **Comments on the Vital Statistics.**

The birth rate of 23.15 per 1,000 estimated population is slightly less than the average for England and Wales of 23.3, but it is considerably higher than the rate for 1946 and is the highest figure so far recorded in East Elloe.

The death rate of 10.97 is below the average for England and Wales, which is a usual finding in a rural district.

The death rate for children under one year of age (50.096) is higher than the figure for 1946 and is above the figure for England and Wales of 47. It is in striking contrast with last year's figure, which was the lowest ever recorded in the district, but these differences are due to the comparatively small numbers under consideration from which no statistically sound conclusions can be drawn.

## NUMBERS OF DEATHS FROM PARTICULAR CAUSES.

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers .....	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever .....	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever .....	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .....	—	—	—
Diphtheria .....	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system .....	4	3	7
Other forms of tuberculosis .....	—	1	1
Syphilitic diseases .....	4	—	4
Influenza .....	1	1	2
Measles .....	—	—	—
Acute polio-myelitis and polio encephalitis.....	—	—	—
Acute infectious encephalitis .....	—	—	—
Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M) uterus (F) .....	1	2	3
Cancer of stomach and duodenum .....	4	4	8
Cancer of breast .....	—	2	2
Cancer of all other sites .....	15	7	22
Diabetes .....	1	—	1
Intracranial vascular lesions .....	16	19	35
Heart disease .....	27	24	51
Other disease of circulatory system .....	2	4	6
Bronchitis .....	7	4	11
Pneumonia .....	5	4	9
Other respiratory diseases .....	1	1	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .....	1	1	2
Diarrhoea under two years .....	3	—	3
Appendicitis .....	1	1	2
Other digestive diseases .....	2	2	4
Nephritis .....	3	4	7
Puerperal and post-abortionals sepsis .....	—	—	—
Other maternal causes .....	—	1	1
Premature birth .....	4	2	6
Congenital malformations, birth injury, infant diseases .....	5	2	7
Suicide .....	4	—	4
Road traffic accidents .....	4	—	4
Other violent causes .....	5	3	8
All other causes .....	22	12	34
Totals .....	142	104	246

## **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.**

There has been no change in the health services provided in the area during the year under review.

### **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**

#### **Water.**

Water is obtained from artesian bores at Bourne, pumped to Spalding and then to Weston Tower, where a series of electrically driven pumps effect distribution over the area. Two additional towers are provided, one at Little Sutton (for the Sutton Bridge district) and another at Whaplode Drove (for the Fen area).

The total length of mains now laid exceeds 280 miles and at the present time water is available to some 19,000 of the population of 22,420. 20 miles of mains extensions were laid during the year. The average drinking water consumption during 1947 was approximately 437,000 gallons compared with 107,000 gallons in 1936. The Council have approved a scheme for increasing the storage and boosting capacity at Weston Tower.

The water supply for the area has been satisfactory as regards quality and quantity.

Water is purchased in bulk from the Spalding Urban District Council who take regular samples for chemical and bacteriological examination.

Three samples of mains water at various parts of the district were taken for bacteriological examination and were found to be satisfactory.

Previous chemical analyses which have been made indicate that owing to its hardness and its low free carbonic acid content the water is extremely unlikely to possess any plumbo-solvent action.

The Council have a portable chlorinator for the sterilisation of new water mains before they are put into service.

The following table indicates for each parish the number of dwelling houses and the number of population supplied from public water mains either direct to houses, including houses where the supply is by means of a stand tap placed in the curtilage of the house or by means of stand pipes fitted to the main and supplying several houses.



Parish	Area in Acres.	Total Houses.	Esti- mated Pop.	MEANS OF SUPPLY.						No Mains Water Houses	Water Pop.
				Direct to Houses.		Standpipes.		Houses	Pop.		
				Houses	Pop.	Houses	Pop.				
Fleet ....	6837	388	1358	310	1085	1	3	77	270		
Gedney ....	11679	623	2180	494	1729	1	3	128	448		
Gedney Hill ....	1865	117	409	84	294	19	66	14	49		
Lutton ....	3793	247	864	218	762	—	—	29	102		
Sutton St. Edmunds ....	4670	158	553	138	483	—	—	20	70		
Sutton St. James ....	2707	193	676	139	487	10	35	44	154		
Little Sutton ....	743	47	165	43	151	—	—	4	14		
Tydd St. Mary ....	4637	268	938	197	690	7	24	64	224		
Whaplode ....	10688	757	2650	573	2006	7	24	177	620		
Holbeach ....	22666	1916	6650	1601	5558	9	31	306	1061		
Long Sutton ....	3931	858	2978	670	2320	4	14	184	644		
Sutton Bridge ....	616	771	2674	712	2467	10	35	49	172		
Wingland ....	4217	93	325	14	49	5	17	74	259		
Totals ....	84597	6436	22420	5193	18081	73	252	1170	4087		

## **Drainage and Sewerage.**

Sewerage schemes for Holbeach, Long Sutton and Sutton Bridge are in course of preparation by a Consulting Engineer.

A number of small sewage plants are in course of construction at new Council Estates. Advice has been given in connection with the sewage disposal arrangements and much time has been spent in the testing of drains and sewers.

In addition advice has been given and tests have been made of all other drainage work which has been carried out in the district.

## **Public Conveniences.**

Satisfactory public conveniences for men and women are provided at Long Sutton, Sutton Bridge and Holbeach. The convenience at Sutton Bridge was completed during the year.

## **Public Cleansing.**

This includes the collection of domestic and trade refuse, salvage, the emptying of sanitary pails, privy vaults and cesspools and the disposal of these materials. The Sanitary Inspector supervises the work which is carried out by direct labour.

Domestic and trade refuse is collected from the kerbside each week in what may be termed the urban parts of Holbeach, Fleet, Gedney, Lutton, Little Sutton, Long Sutton and Sutton Bridge. A 10 cub. yd. freighter of the side loading type is used for collection. Service is given to about 2,800 premises each week. Disposal of the refuse is by controlled tipping in pits and on low-lying land but it is becoming more difficult to find suitable sites and other methods of disposal may soon have to be considered.

An extension of the present domestic refuse collection service is under consideration but cannot as yet be undertaken without a second freighter as the present vehicle is now 8 years old and in use day and night. An order has been placed for a second refuse freighter and delivery is expected during 1948.

The refuse vehicle is also used for the weekly collection of sanitary pails in the urban parts of Holbeach and Sutton Bridge. Collection is carried out in the evening and normally ends just about dusk. Disposal is by composting. About 900 premises are dealt with each week.

Cesspool and vault emptying is carried out with a 750 gallon cesspool emptier. This machine can also be used for the collection of contents of sanitary pails. Cesspools are emptied free of charge at not less than 12 monthly intervals and privy-vaults whenever application is made. Service is given over the whole area of the district.

The table below shows how the numbers of vaults and cesspools emptied each year have steadily increased.

In the year	1940	.....	957 vaults and cesspools were emptied.				
„ „	1941	.....	1,370	„	„	„	„
„ „	1942	.....	1,540	„	„	„	„
„ „	1943	.....	1,590	„	„	„	„
„ „	1944	.....	1,927	„	„	„	„
„ „	1945	.....	2,098	„	„	„	„
„ „	1946	.....	2,291	„	„	„	„
„ „	1947	.....	2,761	„	„	„	„

In order to deal with such a large number of applications it has been necessary at times to work overtime and even then there has been considerable delay in service. A contractor was employed on the emptying of cesspools for several weeks in order to prevent possible nuisance owing to cesspools overflowing. A second cesspool emptier has been ordered by the Council and should be delivered during 1948.

Comments on public cleansing would not be complete without a reference to salvage work. In the domestic refuse collection area this is effected at the same time as the collection of refuse and a trailer is attached to the refuse freighter for this purpose. A regular fortnightly kerbside collection is made throughout the rest of the district. The figures in the following table show the value of the sales.

At the end of 1940 the total value of the sales was £338.

„	„	1941	„	„	„	£625.
„	„	1942	„	„	„	£1,348.
„	„	1943	„	„	„	£1,125.
„	„	1944	„	„	„	£852.
„	„	1945	„	„	„	£686.
„	„	1946	„	„	„	£634.
„	„	1947	„	„	„	£803.

During the eight years 1940—1947 the total value of the sales was £6,411.

## HOUSING.

Considerable progress has been made during the year on the development of Council housing sites in connection with post war housing schemes. The position obtaining at the end of March, 1948 is shown below.

### (A) Permanent Houses.

Houses erected under all schemes prior to 1945—869.

#### Post War Housing Programme.

Houses completed—28. Houses under erection—210.

Further houses proposed to be erected—388.

### (B) Temporary Bungalows.

69 temporary bungalows of the Aluminium type have been erected in the district.

#### Ex R.A.F. Hutments.

Ex R.A.F. Hutments at Sutton Bridge have been converted into 40 dwellings and are managed by the Council on behalf of the Ministry of Health.

A slum clearance programme was commenced just before the war but had to be abandoned at the outbreak of hostilities. As a consequence many of the houses in the district are in an unsatisfactory condition and in ordinary times would be demolished. It is impossible to put this type of property into a satisfactory condition at a reasonable cost and in such cases owners are requested to remedy the grosser defects and make the houses reasonably weather tight.



Owing to shortage of staff it has not been possible to carry out a survey of housing conditions in the district but it is hoped that this may be possible in the near future so that a true picture of the housing needs of the district can be ascertained. This will prove of great value when slum clearance work can again be undertaken.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Owing to shortage of staff, adequate inspection of cowsheds, shops, dairies, bakehouses and other premises used for preparation and storage of food has not been possible.

The commercial slaughter of animals for human consumption is carried out at Spalding.

Quantities of foodstuffs, generally in the possession of local tradesmen, have been examined, and where necessary Voluntary Surrender Certificates issued. Foodstuffs condemned during the year include :

621 tins of Canned Foods.  
292 lbs. of Bread.  
475 Eggs.  
66 lbs. of Sausage.  
77 lbs. of Beef.  
44 lbs. of Pork.  
4 jars of Mincemeat.  
1 jar of Lemon Curd.  
4 boxes of Suet.  
10 lbs. of Cheese.  
8½ lbs. of Ham.  
2 tons of Rhubarb.  
137¼ lbs of Tea.  
22½ lbs. of Butter.  
74 lbs. of Soyagetti.

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The numbers of confirmed cases of infectious disease notified by Medical Practitioners are given in the following table.

Disease.	No. of Cases.	Comments.
Smallpox .....	—	
Scarlet Fever .....	9	
Diphtheria .....	—	
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	2	
Pneumonia .....	31	
Measles .....	178	
Whooping Cough .....	94	
Erysipelas .....	5	
Tuberculosis .....	14	(16 notified—2 not confirmed)
Malaria .....	1	
Anterior Poliomyelitis	11	(12 notified—one not confirmed)
Food Poisoning .....	2	
Total .....	347	

It will be noted that East Elloe suffered slightly from the epidemic of acute anterior poliomyelitis which struck the country during the autumn. Fortunately the cases in this district were of a comparatively mild nature and none was fatal.

The Table below is an Analysis of the above diseases in various age groups. The age groups are generally those of the Quarterly Return.

DISEASE.	Age groups in years.							Not known	Totals
	0	1	3	5	10	15	25		
Scarlet Fever ....	—	—	—	6	2	—	1	—	9
Diphtheria ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ....	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Pneumonia ....	—	1	2	3	—	7	17	1	31
Measles ....	5	32	38	90	6	3	—	4	178
Whooping Cough ....	3	24	23	40	2	1	1	—	94
Erysipelas ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	5
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis ....	—	2	—	2	7	—	—	—	11
Food Poisoning ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Malaria ....	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1

## Diphtheria Immunisation.

Most of the immunisation work is carried out by the Assistant County Medical Officers and the Health Visitors using A.P.T.

At 31st December, 1947, the estimated percentages of the child population which have been protected were :

Under 5 years of age—52.55% ; 5—15 years of age—86.0%.

## Tuberculosis.

A register of all cases of Tuberculosis is kept by the Health Department. This register was revised at the end of 1947 in conjunction with the County Tuberculosis Officer and is now an accurate record of the Tuberculosis cases in the district.

Copies of all notifications of tuberculosis are passed to the County Medical Officer of Health and the cases are then visited by the Tuberculosis Nurse. Cases are also visited by the Sanitary Inspector on receipt of notification so that details of living conditions, etc., may be obtained. Where deaths occur a visit is made and fumigation facilities explained and offered. Fumigation work is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector.

The total number of cases on the Register is 57. 14 new cases were notified during the year and 52 cases were removed from the register. Of the 52 removals, 11 were due to death, 7 cases left the district, 3 cases were not confirmed, 23 cases were removed as cured and 13 cases removed as no trace could be found of the cases.

In the following Table an Analysis is given of the number of new cases, the number of cures and the number of deaths in the various age groups.

Age Period in years.	NEW CASES.				CURES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmon-ary.		Non-Pulmon-ary.		Pulmon-ary.		Non-Pulmon-ary.		Pulmon-ary.		Non-Pulmon-ary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 ....	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
5—15 ....	—	—	1	1	—	—	6	1	—	—	—	—
15—25 ....	4	1	1	—	—	1	3	1	1	1	—	—
25—35 ....	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	1	—	—
35—45 ....	1	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	2	3	—	—
45—55 ....	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
55—65 ....	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Totals ....	8	2	2	2	4	5	10	4	5	5	—	1

## Scabies.

The joint scheme which began in 1943 was continued during the year. 42 persons from East Elloe attended the Spalding Treatment Centres, and received 89 treatments.









